from 10*l.* to 20*l.*, 12*s.*; from 20*l.* to 30*l.*, 14*s.*; from 30*l.* to 40*l.*, 16*s.*; 50*l.* and upwards, 20*s.* per annum. It was at the same time enacted that churches, cemeteries, markets, &c. should be proportionally assessed. This Act, throwing upon the corporate authorities the duty of enforcing the lighting of the London streets, may be considered the first of the many subsequent Acts, which have had a most beneficial effect on both the morals and health of those living in the City and suburbs.

About this time, application was made to Parliament to regulate the London watch: an assessment was made on the inhabitants to supply the same, and to render the force more effective than formerly.

In 1739 the present Mansion-house was commenced. This work was not completed until 1752, and cost 42,638*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*

About this time the Foundling Hospital, Small Pox Hospital, London Hospital, and other buildings were erected, which, although they do not display much architectural beauty, are most excellent,—in intention.

In 1744 the robbers again became troublesome after dark, and to such a pitch of insolence had they arisen, that they went to the houses of the peace officers, and made them beg pardon for endeavouring to apprehend them; and many, whose lives they had threatened, were obliged to secure themselves by taking shelter in Bridewell.

In 1745 an important enactment was made respecting coaches, carts, &c.: it was ordered that the carts of the citizens were to have the City arms painted upon them, and "that no person should obstruct the passing and repassing of any public streets, lanes, &c. within the limits before mentioned, or set any empty casks, &c. in such streets."

In 1753 an Act of Parliament was passed for the purchase of the museum or collection of Sir Hans Sloane, and of the Harleian collection of manuscripts, and for providing a general repository for the better reception and more convenient use of the said collections, and of the Cottonian library, and the additions thereto. The history of the foundation of this valuable institution is so well known that it is unnecessary to enter into particulars. It is worth while, however, just for the sake of contrast with the manner of admission to the British Museum at the present day, to mention the following old regulation:—

"If any number, not exceeding fifteen, are inclined to see the Museum, they must send a list of their Christian and surnames and places of abode to the porter's lodge, in order to their being entered in the book: *in a few days* the tickets will be made out, specifying the day and hour in which they have to come, which, on being sent for, are delivered. The fewer names there are in, the sooner they are likely to be admitted to see it."

In 1758 the temporary wooden bridge, which had been erected for traffic during the widening and repair of Old London-bridge, was destroyed by fire.

In 1759, the building of a new bridge being finally determined, and all preparation made for its erection, it was feared by many that unless proper measures should be taken to make the city of London more airy and commodious for trade before the bridge should be finished, the genteel part of the inhabitants would be induced to remove to the new buildings on the Surrey side, by which the estates of the City (so it was then feared) would be greatly prejudiced. To prevent this—and for the further emolument of the City—the Common Council, in 1760, resolved that an application should be made to Parliament for a Bill to empower the City to make such alterations in regard to the avenues leading into it as should be thought necessary, and might tend to its advantage. Accordingly, a petition was presented, praying that leave might be given to bring in a Bill to widen and enlarge several old streets, lanes, &c. and to open several new streets, &c. This Act led to the great improvement of several parts of the City.

In carrying out the intentions of the above Act, the Committee of the City Lands directed the removal of three of the City gates, viz. Aldgate (sold for 177*l.* 10*s.*), Cripplegate (sold for 91*l.*), and Ludgate (for 148*l.*), to be pulled down and taken away by the purchaser within a certain time. The statue of Queen Elizabeth, which stood on the west side of Ludgate, was purchased by Alderman Gosling, and set up against St. Dunstan's Church, in Fleet-street, where it still remains.

In this year Geo. II. died.

We have departed from our arrangements in giving the views of Old London Houses in the present number, in order that we might complete the series in the present volume. We are forced, however, by our limited space this week, to defer the particulars of some of the buildings illustrated, and some general remarks.

REFERENCE TO ENGRAVINGS.†

*64. Old Shop, St. Martin's-lane. (Hogarth, the painter, formerly resided in the house above this shop.)
*65. Shop of the late Alderman Birch, near the Royal Exchange.
*66. Four Swans Inn, Bishopsgate-street.
*67. Old Shops, Clare-market.
*68. Cobbler's Stall, Great Ormond-street, Queen's-square.
*69. Brick House, Barbican.
*70. Ornamental Brick Work, Fetter-lane.
*71. Ornamental Brick Work, opposite the front of Clerkenwell Prison.

The illustrations in these papers marked *, are sketched from existing examples.

THE NAPOLEON CIRCUS, PARIS.

M. Hittorff, who designed the circus in the *champs Elysées*, has just now completed a winter circus of large size and striking effect near the *Chaussée de Mesnil-Montant* and the street *Des Filles du Calvaire*. The circus, with the passages and stables, occupies an area of no less than 2,600 *mètres*. The works were commenced April 26, 1852, and were completely finished on the 10th of the present month. The plan of the circus is a polygon of twenty sides, 138 feet in diameter. Corinthian columns, which are placed at the angles of the polygon, carry a very rich entablature, adorned with symbolic sculptures. There are also some very fine bas-reliefs by Messrs. Duret and Bosio, Guillaume and Lequesne, Husson and Dantan, M. Pradier was engaged on one of these when he unhappily died. The upper part of the building is terminated by a polygonal lantern, surmounted by a figure of Victory in bronze, gilt, holding in one hand branches of laurel and an imperial banner, and in the other some crowns and a torch. A brilliant flame of gas from the latter serves to announce afar that the games have commenced. Numerous tiers of seats surround the interior, and will accommodate, we are told, 5,000 spectators. The roof which covers this immense area is without intermediate support, and is sumptuously decorated. The capitals of a series of Corinthian columns around the inside are gilt. The great feature of the interior, however, is a series of twenty paintings, exhibiting the history of equestrian exercises, and of games of agility and strength, which have been executed by Messrs. Gosse and Barrias, both able artists. Amongst these paintings are the Areopagus, assembled to award the prizes; horse-racing amongst the Greeks; Roman chariot racing; an Olympic triumph; games of the fourteenth century; a triumph after a tourney; the *Carrousel* under Louis XIV.; the high school of our own time; Victory crowning Strength and Address in the presence of spectators of all times and all countries, &c. &c.

How is it that the speculators in a circus in France can call in artists of eminence and ability for their decorations, and set up for admiration fresh creations of art, while in England a few ill-chosen colours put on by mechanic hands, and a cheap "paper," ill-disposed, are all that would be ventured on? Is it that artists will give their aid there at less cost than would be the case with corresponding ability here, or that an investment of capital in such decoration is more certain there to produce a pecuniary return?

Defective Sewerage.—A vestry meeting of the parish of Battersea, numerous, influential, and unanimous, has passed a series of resolutions in favour of improved sewerage.

† See page 813, in our present number.

THE PLUMBER TRADE.

EDINBURGH PLUMBERS.

A full and able article on the plumber trade appears in the *Edinburgh News*, from which we quote as far as our limits will allow. The article is not confined to the trade as it exists in Edinburgh alone, but rather consists of a rapid review of its general history. "The plumber," as remarked, "is the true pioneer of the sanitary movement—the chief and indispensable agent in the great work of sanitary reform," and as such is entitled to a more lengthened notice than many other branches of the working classes,—to a notice, moreover, not confined to Edinburgh, or to any one locality.

"If we seek to discover its true relations to art," proceeds the writer, "we should leave the confines of our native city. We should then glance at its history among those civilised nations of antiquity that have long since passed away. We should seek in the mouldering tombs of Thebes for the indication of an art which we know had its origin in the land of the Pharaohs. We should carry our imagination backward to ancient Babylon, and look with a curious interest on its lead-covered terraces. We should traverse the sunny regions of Palestine, and regard with admiration its noble reservoirs, its perennial fountains, its "broken cisterns," together with the curious specimens of plumber work that pertained to them. We should enter the classical ground of Greece, and tell of the lofty theories of its philosophers concerning water, and of the world-renowned experiments of Archimedes with his leaden pipes, and his wonderful hydraulic machinery. We should glance at the monuments of the art in ancient Rome; its colossal aqueducts, its gorgeous fountains, its perfumed waters, its baths of marble, their tubes of silver; and last of all, we should look with dismay on that dark page of history, when everything pertaining to art and science was sunk in the hopeless depths of a barbarous supremacy: when everything that could be called artistic in plumber work was buried in the ruins of mother fabrics.

There were periods, indeed, in the early phases of its mediæval history when the materials and art of the plumber were not forgotten: when the mosques of Aleppo had their stately domes and their gilded minarets covered with lead: when the Arabian alchemists endeavoured (?), but in vain, to transmute the baser metal into gold, but discovered, unwittingly to themselves, the principle of the "water-lute"—to this day the most invaluable principle of the sanitary economist. It is, however, at a period subsequent to the restoration of architecture that we must date the general revival of the trade in Europe. It once more accompanied the progress of civilisation. Its relations to architecture soon became widely recognised, and towards the close of the fourteenth century it had reached to a high position in every country and kingdom of Europe.

It was then that the prolific lead mines of Wales and Derbyshire, neglected since the Roman invasion, were re-opened and vigorously worked. It was then that the castles of our feudal barons and the roofs of our magnificent cathedrals were covered with lead and decorated with ornaments of the same material. It was then that all sorcerers and wizards—beyond the pale of common punishments—were rolled in sheet-lead, and so boiled to death in a huge cauldron. It was then that the mortal remains of great kings and good knights were first encased in coffins of the same indestructible metal, and so consigned to their final resting-place."

The writer then gives an explanation of what plumber work consists in,—of its two distinct features,—roof work and interior work, and of the nature of the materials used and the modes of working, the poisonous qualities of lead in all its forms, and other points, such as the substitution of zinc, the water-closet system, &c. into which we need not here enter.

"It is obvious," he continues, "from what we have stated, that the plumber trade has recently undergone a radical change. In the first place, the successive introduction of these improvements in the manufacture of lead has completely revolutionised that part of the business, and has created a new and important branch of metallic manufacture. In the next place, the introduction of zinc has completely altered the character of the workmanship. Iron has now extensively superseded lead for a variety of useful purposes. Indeed, the recent invention of coating malleable iron pipes with zinc to prevent their corrosion, bids fair to supersede the use of lead pipes in the supply of water. Water-closets can now be constructed exclusively of earthenware. Washing-tubs are lined with por-

To learn more about OCR and PDF Compression go to our website